

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/159,509

Examiner

William M. Treat

Applicant(s)

BROWNING ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the decision of the BPAI on 6/20/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9,44,45,67,68 and 84-94.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**WILLIAM M. TREAT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Claims 10-43, 46-55, 58-66, 97-104, and 106-108 are cancelled.
3. Claim 44 reads as follows: A method for creating a data base representing a virtual world, the method comprising: receiving a plurality of polygon representations of virtual objects; selecting first and second virtual objects from said plurality of polygon representations of virtual objects; grouping the first and second virtual objects into a three-dimensional grouped object, wherein said grouping the first and second virtual objects includes: selecting a first edge of said first virtual object; selecting a second edge of said second virtual object; wherein said three-dimensional grouped object comprises said first and second virtual objects joined with at least a portion of said first edge of said first virtual object contacting at least a portion of said second edge of said second virtual object; assigning a grouping hierarchy for the first and second virtual objects, wherein the second virtual object is assigned as the child of the first virtual object; and calculating an orientation and position of the child object relative to the first virtual object.
4. Claim 45 reads as follows: A method for creating a data base representing a virtual world, the method comprising: receiving a plurality of polygon representations of virtual objects; selecting first and second virtual objects from said plurality of polygon representations of virtual objects; grouping the first and second virtual objects into a

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three-dimensional grouped object, wherein said grouping the first and second virtual objects includes: selecting a first edge of said first virtual object; selecting a second edge of said second virtual object; wherein said three-dimensional grouped object comprises said first and second virtual objects joined at an intersection of the first and second edges; assigning a grouping hierarchy for the first and second virtual objects, wherein the second virtual object is assigned as the child of the first virtual object; and calculating an orientation and position of the child object relative to the first virtual object.

5. Claim 67 reads as follows: A system for creating a data base representing a virtual world, the system comprising: a computer system comprising a CPU and memory, wherein the memory stores a plurality of polygon representations of virtual objects; a user input device coupled to the computer system for providing user input to the computer system; wherein the CPU is operable to select first and second virtual objects from said plurality of polygon representations of virtual objects; wherein the CPU is operable to group the first and second virtual objects into a three-dimensional grouped object; wherein the CPU is further configured to: select a first edge of said first virtual object, and select a second edge of said second virtual object, wherein said three-dimensional grouped object comprises said first and second virtual objects joined with at least a portion of said first edge of said first virtual object contacting at least a portion of said second edge of said second virtual object, wherein the CPU is operable to assign a grouping hierarchy for the first and second virtual objects, wherein the second virtual object is assigned as the child of the first virtual object; and wherein the

CPU is operable to calculate an orientation and position of the child object relative to the first virtual object.

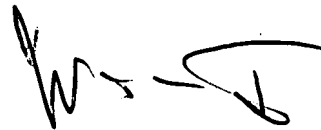
6. Claim 68 reads as follows: A system for creating a data base representing a virtual world, the system comprising: a computer system comprising a CPU and memory, wherein the memory stores a plurality of polygon representations of virtual objects; a user input device coupled to the computer system for providing user input to the computer system; wherein the CPU is operable to select first and second virtual objects from said plurality of polygon representations of virtual objects; wherein the CPU is operable to group the first and second virtual objects into a three-dimensional grouped object; wherein said CPU is configured to group the first and second virtual objects by: selecting a first edge of said first virtual object, and selecting a second edge of said second virtual object, wherein said three-dimensional grouped object comprises said first and second virtual objects joined at an intersection of the first and second edges, wherein the CPU is operable to assign a grouping hierarchy for the first and second virtual objects, wherein the second virtual object is assigned as the child of the first virtual object; and wherein the CPU is operable to calculate an orientation and position of the child object relative to the first virtual object.

7. See MPEP 1214.06 regarding any questions related to the appropriateness of this amendment.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to William M. Treat at telephone number (571) 272-4175.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**WILLIAM M. TREAT**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**